Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13 per cent of the rural population and 7.13 per cent of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12.00 per day.

(c) According to the above report of the NSSO, the rural areas of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have forty per cent of more people with per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day. In the urban areas, no State has forty per cent of more people with per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day.

Policy papers on infrastructure sector

355. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Planning Commission to prepare policy papers on required regulatory framework for infrastructure sector;

(b) the status of the work done by Planning Commission in this regard;

(c) the details of the recommendations that are coming to fore from this policy paper;

(d) in what manner Government are going to ensure the enforcement of regulatory laws at local level;

(e) whether this paper would be released to get suggestions from public; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme States, *inter alia*, that 'all regulatory institutions will be strengthened to ensure that competition is free & fair. These institutions will be run professionablly';

(b) a consultation paper on 'Approach to Regulation of Infrastructure-Issues and Options' has since been pepared and a copy of the paper has been put on the websites of the Planning Commission: www.planning commission.gov.in and the Committee on Infrastructure:

www.infrastructure.gov.in for comments of the stakeholders, experts, etc.

(c) and (d) This paper analyses the rationale for regulation, surveys the existing regulatory institutions with respect of their roles, scope and identifies the principles and policy options for an overarching regulatory framework-independence and autonomy; functions of the regulator and his interface with the subject Ministry; accountability of the regulator; transparency of the regulatory process; competition issues and interface with the Competition Commission; dispute resolution etc. which are basic to their institutional design.

(e) and (f) The paper has already been put on website of the Planning Commission and the Committee on Infrasturcure for public comments. Further, a meeting was convened on 25th September 2006 with the Ministries/Department concerned, regulators, academicians, industry associations and other stakeholders. After the discussion the participants have been requested to send their written comments based on which a second version of the paper would be prepared and focused discussion on the same would be held with all stakeholders, regulators, consumer groups, etc.

HDI of India

356. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of high GDP growh of 8.5 per cent in 2003-04, 7.5 per cent in 2004-05, 8.4. per cent in 2005-06, 9 per cent in 2006-07, Human Development Indix of India, according to UNDP, has remained abysmally low, *i.e.* 127 out of 177 countries;

(b) whether India boasts of more than 80,000 crorepati, 260 million are BPL, and 100 million are doomed to live in *Jhopar-Patti* and thousands of farmers commit suicide; and

(c) whether according to latest NSSO survey on Consumer Expenditure, 250 million are surviving on 12 Rs., a day, and Rural India is worse off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the Human Development